

CHAPTER TWO**POPULATION ELEMENT**

This chapter briefly reviews past and current population trends in Lumpkin County. To assist in conducting proper analysis, population is broken down into various categories including age, race, household characteristics, education and income. The evaluation of each category is necessary to identify specific opportunities and constraints for future development. The analysis of these trends will assist in drawing conclusions that will form the basis for recommendations regarding economic development, housing, land use, community facilities and overall growth management.

Population Trends

Lumpkin County has experienced significant population growth over the past three decades. The largest rate of growth occurred between 1990 and 2000 during which Lumpkin County's population increased over 44 percent from 14,573 to 21,016 persons. (Table 2-1) During the past three decades, Lumpkin County's growth rate has averaged 34.3 percent.

**TABLE 2-1
POPULATION TRENDS, 1970-2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AREA	1970	1980	1985	1990	80-90% CHANGE	1995	2000	90-00% CHANGE
Lumpkin Co.	8,728	10,762	12,211	14,573	35.4	17,435	21,016	44.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1970-2000.

Lumpkin County's growth rate during the past decade was one of the highest in the area. Table 2-2 indicates that Lumpkin County's growth rate between 1980 and 2000 was similar to area counties. Dawson County, Hall County and White County had a higher growth rate during the ten year period. It is important to note that Dawson and Forsyth Counties had the highest growth rates of all counties located in the Georgia Mountains area. This increase in population can be attributed to growth of suburban Atlanta and development surrounding Lake Lanier and along the Georgia 400 corridor. Table also reflects that Lumpkin County's growth rate was almost double that of the state and over three times the national rate.

**TABLE 2-2
POPULATION TRENDS
LUMPKIN COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS, 1990-2000**

AREA	1990 POPULATION	2000 POPULATION	GROWTH RATE (%)
Dawson County	9,429	15,999	69.7
Fannin County	15,992	19,798	23.8
Hall County	95,428	139,277	46.1
Lumpkin County	14,573	21,016	44.2
Union County	11,993	17,289	44.2
White County	13,006	19,944	53.3
Georgia	6,478,216	8,186,451	26.4
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing 1990 and 2000.

Population Projections

Population projections were calculated based on the annual growth rate of each age category between 2000 and 2025. Such projections are difficult to derive based on various factors influencing population growth. These factors include job availability, infrastructure development, birth rates, migration and the overall health of the economy. Projections indicate that the population will increase to 34,925 persons by the year 2010. (Table 2-3) This is an increase of over 13,900 persons reflecting a growth rate of 66.2 percent from 2000 to 2010. The population is projected to grow at a significant rate during the ten year period following the year 2010, but at a lower rate of just over 50 percent.

**TABLE 2-3
POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 1990-2015
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

YEAR	LUMPKIN COUNTY
2000	21,016
2001	22,167
2002	23,271
2003	24,778
2004	26,983
2005	28,510
2006	30,078
2007	31,281
2008	32,532
2009	33,713
2010	34,925
2015	42,780
2020	52,410
2025	66,661

Source: Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center, 2004.

Age of Population

As is the trend with the rest of the country, the age of Lumpkin County's population has increased over the past three decades. Table 2-4 demonstrates that the percentage of persons 24 years of age and younger decreased while persons 25 and over increased. As the population continues to mature, the county will have to address the needs of an aging population. The age groups of 15-24 is dominated by students attending North Georgia College and State University has the highest percentage of persons in the county.

**TABLE 2-4
POPULATION BY AGE 1980-2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AGE CATEGORY	1980	%	1990	%	2000	%
0-4	638	5.9	994	6.8	1,343	6.4
5-9	784	7.3	1,010	6.9	1,401	6.7
10-14	921	8.6	975	6.7	1,469	7.0
15-24	2,716	25.2	2,961	20.3	4,134	19.7
25-34	1,556	14.5	2,499	17.1	2,849	13.6
35-44	1,227	11.4	1,981	13.6	3,243	15.4
45-54	1,043	9.7	1,489	10.2	2,624	12.5
55-64	822	7.6	1,189	8.2	1,913	9.1
65-74	683	6.3	854	5.9	1,187	5.6
75-84	262	2.4	455	3.1	613	2.9
85+	110	1.0	166	1.1	240	1.1
TOTAL	10,762		14,573		21,016	

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 figures from U.S. Census Bureau.

Projections of population based on age distribution indicate that the percentage of persons that are retirement age will increase over the next two decades. While the numbers for persons in the 15-24 age group appear to grow dramatically, the percentage the group holds will continue to decrease. It is also anticipated that the younger age groups will increase their percentage through 2025 as families move into the area due to job creation to service the growing college and retirement populations in the county.

**TABLE 2-5
PROJECTION OF POPULATION BY AGE 1990-2015
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AGE CATEGORY	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
0-4	1,995	2,654	3,465	4,297	5,599
5-9	1,881	2,374	2,695	3,092	4,199
10-14	1,654	1,886	2,053	2,410	3,133
15-24	4,364	5,345	6,290	7,286	8,934
25-34	4,447	4,854	5,732	6,341	7,399
35-44	3,620	4,016	4,449	4,874	5,599
45-54	2,737	3,248	4,064	4,350	5,066
55-64	2,509	3,704	5,221	6,605	9,400
65-74	2,252	3,004	3,979	6,028	8,000
75-84	2,082	2,620	3,252	4,926	6,800
85+	970	1,223	1,583	2,254	2,667
TOTAL	28,510	34,925	42,780	52,410	66,661

Source: GMRDC, 2004.

Median Age

The median age of persons in Lumpkin County has increased over the last four decades reflecting a state and national trend. (Table 2-6) However, Lumpkin County's median age is lower than that of the state median. This fact is significant as Lumpkin is considered a rural county. The lower median age is attributed to the student population attending North Georgia College as reflected in the median age of the population in Dahlonega.

**TABLE 2-6
MEDIAN AGE OF PERSONS, 1960-2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY AND STATE OF GEORGIA**

YEAR	DAHLONEGA	LUMPKIN COUNTY	STATE OF GEORGIA
1960	N/A	22.9	25.9
1970	21.8	23.9	25.9
1980	21.5	27.1	28.6
1990	22.6	30.3	31.6
2000	22.4	32.5	33.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960-2000.

Population by Race

In 1990, Lumpkin County had a minority population of 571 persons or 5.9 percent of the total population. The number increased to 656 or 6.0 percent by 2000. The minority population showed an increase in the black population, but a decrease in the indian, eskimo or aleutian population. The county also had 95 persons classified as asian or pacific islander and 213 persons of hispanic origin. (Table 2-7) It is interesting to note that between 1980 and 1990, the minority population in Lumpkin County decreased as a percent of the total population prior to the increase in the recent decade. This decrease is attributed to the lower number of indian, eskimo or aleutian persons. Table 2-7 also indicates that the county saw a large increase in the other-race population. This is most likely persons of latino or hispanic origin that felt that they did not fit into the listed race categories in the census. This sheds some light on how the county may need to adjust some of its delivery of services so as to accommodate the needs of this growing population.

**TABLE 2-7
RACE OF POPULATION 1980-2000
DAHLONEGA AND LUMPKIN COUNTY**

RACE	DAHLONEGA				LUMPKIN COUNTY			
	1980	1990	2000	2000 %	1980	1990	2000	2000 %
White	2,618	2,873	3,272	89.9	10,170	14,002	19,760	94.0
Black	192	156	180	4.9	222	238	307	1.5
Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	0	21	16	0.4	336	237	203	1.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	29	22	30	0.8	29	45	95	0.5
Other-Race	5	14	140	3.9	5	51	376	1.8
Hispanic Origin(1)	5	109	239	6.6	5	213	728	3.5
TOTAL	2,844	3,086	3,638		10,762	14,573	21,016	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

1) Hispanic origin is not considered a race.

Gender of the Population

Over the past decade the distribution of male and female population has remained constant. Table 2-8 demonstrates Lumpkin County's population distribution according to gender. According to the latest census, 50.9 percent of the population were females and 49.1 percent were males. These percentages varied only slightly from the 1990 census.

**TABLE 2-8
GENDER OF POPULATION 1990-2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

SEX	LUMPKIN COUNTY			
	1990	%	2000	%
Male	7,221	49.6	10,309	49.1
Female	7,352	50.4	10,707	50.9
Total	14,573	100	21,016	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2000.

Household Characteristics

The majority of Lumpkin County's population reside in households. According to the 2000 Census, 93.6 percent of the population lived in households with the remaining 6.4 percent living in group quarters. (See Table 2-9) From 1990 to 2000, there was a slight increase in the percentage of persons living in households thereby resulting in a decrease of the percentage of persons living in group quarters. The vast majority of the persons residing in group quarters were located in the City of Dahlonega. This is due to the presence of the college, Gold City Assisted Living Facility. and the county jail within the city limits.

In 2000, Lumpkin County had 7,537 households. This is an increase of 2,561 from 1990 to 2000. Of the total number of households, 5,363 (71.2%) were family households and 2,174 (28.8%) were non-family. In 1990, 77 percent of all households were family households with the other 23 percent being non-family households.

**TABLE 2-9
HOUSEHOLD AND GROUP QUARTERS POPULATION
1980 - 2000
DAHLONEGA AND LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AREA	TOTAL PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS			TOTAL PERSONS IN GROUP QUARTERS		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Dahlonega	1,769	1,901	2,445	1,075	1,185	1,193
Lumpkin County	9,687	13,318	19,664	1,075	1,255	1,352
Lumpkin County Percent Total Population	90.0	91.4	93.6	10.0	8.6	6.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**TABLE 2-10
HOUSEHOLDS AND SELECTED HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS
1990 AND 2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AREA	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS		NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS		PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Lumpkin Co.	4,976	7,537	3,872	5,363	1,105	2,174	2.7	2.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Household size has decreased in Lumpkin County during the past decade. Table 2-11 reflects the number of households by the number of persons per household. Two person households ranked highest among all the categories making up 34.4 percent of all households. The number one person households increased substantially as well.. The decrease in the size of households is a significant trend as it could be attributed to an increase in households headed by single parents, retirees, and in Lumpkin County's case an increase in the number of students living alone while attending college. These numbers suggest Lumpkin County may need to promote the development of one and two bedroom units to meet future housing demands.

**TABLE 2-11
HOUSEHOLDS BY NUMBER OF PERSONS
PER HOUSEHOLD, 1990 AND 2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	1990	%	2000	%
1 Person	962	19.3	1,663	22.1
2 Persons	1,710	33.4	2,592	34.4
3 Persons	990	19.9	1,415	18.8
4 Persons	852	17.1	1,126	14.9
5 Persons	305	6.1	480	6.4
6 Persons or more	157	3.2	256	3.4
TOTAL	4,976	100	7,537	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Household Projections

Based on past trends and anticipated population growth, the total number of households is projected to increase to 10,782 or 43 percent by the year 2010. The total number of households is projected to reach over 21,500 by the year 2025. It is projected that the average household size will decrease slightly over the next two decades, but then rise a bit by 2025.

**TABLE 2-12
PROJECTED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, 1995-2015
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

COUNTY	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Lumpkin County	8,343	10,782	13,800	17,419	21,588
Household Size	2.64	2.60	2.59	2.59	2.61

Source: GMRDC, 1992.

Education of the Population

In 2000, Lumpkin County had a total number of 12,665 persons who were 25 years of age or older. Of the total number, 11.2 percent had attained an education of 8 or fewer years. (Table 2-13 and 2-14) A total of 16.9 percent had 1 to 3 three years of high school, 30.4 percent had at least 4 years of high school, 23.9 percent had 1 to 3 years of college and 17.7 percent had four or more years of college. Of the surrounding counties, Fannin County had a higher percentage of persons with an eighth grade or lower education. Dawson, Union and White Counties had lower percentages than Lumpkin County. In the high school graduate category, Lumpkin County had a lower percentage than surrounding counties, but higher than the state. With the exception of Dawson County, Lumpkin has a higher percentage of persons with four plus years of college education.

**TABLE 2-13
COMPARISON OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER, 1990
BY PERCENTAGES**

AREA	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (0-8)	HIGH SCHOOL (1-3)	HIGH SCHOOL (4)	COLLEGE (1-3)	COLLEGE (4+)
Dawson Co.	16.5	23.4	33.7	17.9	8.6
Fannin Co.	24.8	19.4	33.0	10.8	7.8
Lumpkin Co.	20.3	19.5	30.5	18.6	11.1
Union Co.	22.0	19.3	32.9	15.7	10.1
White Co.	18.2	18.9	30.3	19.1	13.5
State of Georgia	12.0	17.1	29.6	27.0	19.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

**TABLE 2-14
COMPARISON OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER, 2000
BY PERCENTAGES**

AREA	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (0-8)	HIGH SCHOOL (1-3)	HIGH SCHOOL (4)	COLLEGE (1-3)	COLLEGE (4+)
Dawson Co.	6.0	14.5	33.2	28.2	18.1
Fannin Co.	12.7	16.3	38.9	21.6	10.4
Lumpkin Co.	11.2	16.9	30.4	23.9	17.7
Union Co.	9.1	16.7	35.1	26.6	12.5
White Co.	9.0	15.0	35.1	25.4	15.4
State of Georgia	7.6	13.8	28.7	25.6	24.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

Lumpkin County's education attainment levels improved between 1990 and 2000. According to the data found in Table 2-15, 11.2 percent of persons 25 and over had only a 9th grade or less education level. This is a significant drop from 1990. In contrast, persons with high school and college education levels increased over the same period. In 2000, 41.6 percent of persons 25 and over had some type of post secondary education compared to 29.7 percent in 1990. While Lumpkin County ranks below state and national education levels, it has made significant improvement over the past few years.

**TABLE 2-15
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER, 2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND THE UNITED STATES**

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	LUMPKIN CO.	LUMPKIN CO. %	GEORGIA %	UNITED STATES %
Less than 9th grade	1,413	11.2	7.6	7.0
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	2,138	16.9	13.8	11.5
High School Graduate	3,849	30.4	28.7	29.6
Some College, no degree	2,380	18.8	20.4	20.5
Associate degree	651	5.1	5.2	6.5
Bachelor's degree	1,324	10.5	16.0	16.0
Graduate or Professional degree	910	7.2	8.3	9.0
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	72.0	-	78.6	81.6
Percent Bachelor's degree or higher	17.6	-	24.3	25.0
Total Persons, 25 Years and Over	12,665	-		177,532,915

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2000 Census.

The drop-out rate of students in the Lumpkin County school system has decreased significantly from 1995 to 2001, from 11.4% to 5.1% (Table 2-16). Between 1995 and 2001, the county's drop-out rate reached a low of 4.1 percent during the year 2000. The highest rate (11.4%) occurred during the 1995-96 school year. Lumpkin County's drop-out rate was lower than the state rate from 1997 to 2001 (Table 2-17).

TABLE 2-16

Lumpkin County: Education Statistics							
Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
H.S. Graduation Test Scores (All Components)	83%	76%	71%	73%	72%	81%	76%
H.S. Dropout Rate	11.4 %	14.2 %	4.7%	5.2%	5.9%	4.1%	5.1%
Grads Attending Georgia Public Colleges	16.2 %	39.0 %	37.4 %	32.7 %	34.9 %	NA	NA
Grads Attending Georgia Public Technical Schools	7.7%	8.9%	16.3 %	9.1%	9.5%	13.0 %	NA

Source: Georgia Department of Education

The latest short-term follow up of high school graduates indicates that in 1999, 34.9 percent of Lumpkin County high school graduates were enrolled in college and 9.5 percent were attending vocational school. These numbers were derived from those high school graduates that actually reported. The rest of the graduates were employed full-time, were in the military, or were unemployed. The data indicate that the majority of high school graduates pursue post high school educations.

TABLE 2-17

Georgia: Education Statistics							
Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
H.S. Graduation Test Scores (All Components)	82%	76%	67%	68%	66%	68%	65%
H.S. Dropout Rate	9.26 %	8.60 %	7.30 %	6.50 %	6.50 %	6.50 %	6.40 %
Grads Attending Georgia Public Colleges	35.0 %	30.0 %	30.2 %	38.8 %	37.5 %	37.3 %	36.1 %
Grads Attending Georgia Public Technical Schools	5.4%	6.2%	7.1%	6.5%	6.4%	7.4%	8.8%

Source: Georgia Department of Education

High school graduation test scores in Lumpkin County fluctuated from 1995 to 2001, but were comparatively

higher than the state average scores over the same time frame.

**TABLE 2-18
2000 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
PERSONS THREE YEARS AND OVER ENROLLED IN SCHOOL
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

TYPE OF SCHOOL	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Preprimary School	298
Elementary (K-8)	2,719
High School (9-12)	1,045
College	2,321

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau. 2000

In 2000, Lumpkin County had 238 students in preprimary school with 2,719 students in elementary school and 1,045 attending high school. A total of 2,321 students were enrolled in college.

Income of the Population

Income levels are good indicators of the economic environment in Lumpkin County. The average per capita income level has steadily increased from 1980 to 2002. Table 2-19 indicates that the per capita income level in Lumpkin County increased by about 55% from 1990 to 2002. However, Lumpkin County's per capita income is consistently lower than the state level and national.

**TABLE 2-19
PER CAPITA INCOME, 1980 - 2002
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

AREA	1980	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Lumpkin County	5,827	14,458	15,972	16,158	17,596	18,622	19,237
Georgia	8,041	17,123	19,886	20,212	21,806	23,055	23,911
% of State	72.5	84.4	81.7	80.0	80.7	80.5	82.4

TABLE 2-19 (CONT.)

AREA	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Lumpkin County	20,418	20,733	21,935	22,188	22,356
Georgia	25,447	26,499	27,794	28,523	28,821
United States	82.9	81.7	80.2	78.9	77.5

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS, 2004.

When compared to surrounding counties (Table 2-20), Lumpkin has a per capita income level that is about equal. All counties in the region, including Lumpkin, are significantly lower than the state and national average.

**TABLE 2-20
PER CAPITA INCOME
LUMPKIN AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES, 2000-01**

COUNTY/YEAR	2000	2001	2001 % OF GEORGIA	2001 % OF U.S.
Union	21,297	22,417	78.6	73.1
Fannin	19,839	19,977	70.0	65.7
Hall	24,555	25,166	88.2	82.7
Lumpkin	22,279	22,495	78.9	74.0
Dawson	25,462	26,419	92.6	86.9
Rabun	21,491	22,297	78.2	73.3
Towns	22,091	23,374	81.9	76.8
White	21,683	22,530	78.9	74.1
Georgia	27,794	28,523	----	93.8
U.S.	29,469	30,413	106.6	----

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2003.

It is difficult to compare income levels from one decade to another due to the decrease in the value of the dollar caused by inflation. Nevertheless, Tables 2-21 and 2-22 show that per capita, household and family income levels in Lumpkin County have increased at a higher rate than the national level, but less than the state. Between 1990 and 2000, the per capita income level in Lumpkin County increased 25% which is much higher when compared to Georgia (32%) and the United States (23). During the same period, Lumpkin County's household and family incomes each increased about 50 percent. This is much higher than both state and national rates. These figures indicate that while Lumpkin County's income levels are lower than state and national levels, the county experienced significant improvement over the recent ten year period.

**TABLE 2-21
1990 INCOME CHARACTERISTICS
LUMPKIN COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

CHARACTERISTIC	LUMPKIN COUNTY	GEORGIA	UNITED STATES
Per Capita	14,458	16,053	17,592
Median Household	26,116	29,021	30,056
Median Family	30,417	33,529	35,225

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

**TABLE 2-22
2000 INCOME CHARACTERISTICS
LUMPKIN COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

CHARACTERISTIC	LUMPKIN COUNTY	GEORGIA	UNITED STATES
Per Capita	18,062	21,154	21,587
Median Household	39,167	42,433	41,994
Median Family	43,368	49,280	50,046

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

Table 2-23 reflects the distribution of households based on income range in 2000. The majority of households had an income between \$50,000 and \$74,999. Almost 11% of all households had an income of less \$10,000. Household income ranges in Lumpkin County are very similar to family income ranges. The majority of families had income levels between \$35,000 to \$74,999. The county had a notable amount of families within the \$75,000 to \$99,999 income range. However, nearly 23 percent of the families in the county had an income of less than \$25,000. Compared to the state and the nation, in the year 2000, Lumpkin County had a higher percentage of families with incomes between \$35,000 to \$74,999. (Table 2-24).

**TABLE 2-23
DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME, 2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

INCOME RANGE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENT
Less than 10,000	823	10.9
10,000-14,999	534	7.1
15,000-24,999	1,053	14.0
25,000-34,999	981	13.0
35,000-49,999	1,250	16.6
50,000-74,999	1,742	23.1
75,000-99,999	559	7.4
100,000-149,999	443	5.9
150,000 to 199,999	75	1.0
200,000 or more	72	1.0
Total	7,532	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

**TABLE 2-24
2000 FAMILY INCOME
LUMPKIN COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE UNITED STATES
(In Number of Families)**

INCOME CLASSIFICATION (\$)	LUMPKIN CO.	LUMPKIN CO. %	GEORGIA %	UNITED STATES %
Less than 10,000	293	5.5	6.4	5.8
10,000-14,999	253	4.7	4.5	4.3
15,000-24,999	679	12.7	10.9	10.7
25,000-34,999	640	11.9	11.9	12.0
35,000-49,999	1,015	18.9	17.0	17.1
50,000-74,999	1,473	27.5	22.1	22.3
75,000-99,999	483	9.0	12.2	12.5
100,000-149,999	380	7.1	9.4	9.6
150,000-199,999	75	1.4	2.7	2.7
200,000 or more	72	1.3	2.9	2.9
Median (\$)	43,368	-	49,280	50,046
Total families	5,363	-	-	-

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2000.

**TABLE 2-25
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF INCOME, 2000
LUMPKIN COUNTY**

INCOME TYPE	# OF HOUSEHOLDS	% OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	MEAN INCOME (\$)
Wage and Salary	6,195	82.2	47,449
Non-Farm Self-Employment	998	13.3	15,773
Social Security	2,179	28.9	9,400
Public Assistance	156	2.1	2,607
Retirement	970	12.9	16,970

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

The majority of households in Lumpkin County derived their income from wage and salary type employment having a mean income of \$47,449. The percentage of households receiving social security income was 28.9% with another 12.9% receiving retirement income. There was a significant number of households (13.3%) receiving non-farm self-employment income. The 2000 data indicates that a good portion of households in Lumpkin County receive social security, public assistance, and retirement income. This reflects the increase in the age of the population in the County.

Poverty Characteristics

In 1990 poverty status was determined for 2,030 persons in Lumpkin County. The number of people that poverty status was determined for in 2000 increased to 2,602. The overall percentage of persons in the county decrease from 15.3% in 1990 to 13.2% in 2000. There was not a significant increase in the number of children or senior citizen living below the poverty level. Also the number of families below the poverty level decreased over the same time frame. Based on this data a likely reason for the increase in the number of persons below the poverty level is that there are a number of students in small, non-family household situations that are working low wage and part-time jobs while attending college. These students generally supplement their income with student loans and family contributions.

**TABLE 2-26
POVERTY CHARACTERISTICS
LUMPKIN COUNTY
1990-2000**

POVERTY CHARACTERISTIC	1990	2000
Total Persons Below Poverty Level	2,030	2,602
% Total Persons Below Poverty Level	15.3	13.2
Total Children under 18 years Below Poverty Level	597	686
Total Persons 65 Years and Over Below Poverty Level	307	319
Total Families Below Poverty Level	526	483

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000.

STATEMENT OF GROWTH POLICY

The rate of population growth in Lumpkin County has exceeded the rural county government's capacity to provide law enforcement, education and other public services. The comprehensive plan does not seek to promote additional population growth. While the plan is not opposed to growth, the county's policy is to manage population growth. The plan's growth policy seeks to retain existing employment and to provide more and better employment opportunities.

SUMMARY

Inventory

- ! From 1990 to 2000, Lumpkin County experienced a 44.2 percent increase in population. This growth rate was higher than the state's and nation's.
- ! Lumpkin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the Georgia Mountains area.
- ! Approximately 5,600 persons migrated to Lumpkin County during the 1990's.
- ! The County's median age has increased since 1960 but is still lower than the state's.
- ! The Latino population in Lumpkin County increased fairly dramatically from 1990 to 2000.
- ! The number of persons per household decreased slightly during the 1990's.
- ! The percentage of persons in Lumpkin County attaining a high school education was higher than the state average, but those achieving a college degree was lower than the state.
- ! Approximately one half of high school graduates in the county attend college or vocational school.
- ! In 2002, the County's per capita income was only 77.5 percent of the state average. All income indicators were lower than state and national levels.

Assessment

- ! Lumpkin County's population is projected to be 34,925 by the year 2010 and 66,661 by the year 2025.
- ! The county's retirement population (age 65+) will increase 750 percent by the year 2025.
- ! The number of persons per household will relatively the same over the next twenty years.
- ! The number of households is projected to increase to 10,782 by the year 2010 and to over 21,500 by the year 2025.

- ! To become competitive in the global economic market, the county will need to increase its educational levels.
- ! The county should work toward decreasing the poverty level of the local population.